



AGENCY

Bosch, S. (Author), Driver, C. (Author), & Johnston, S. (Author). (2009). AGENCY. Artefact, .
<http://www.pilotprojekt-gropiusstadt.de>

[Link to publication record in Ulster University Research Portal](#)

Publication Status:

Published (in print/issue): 01/01/2009

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Once a year when everybody is invited to dress up for Halloween, a large part of young people dress up as paramilitaries in Northern Ireland. The young people who did not experience THE TROUBLES lack role models. The great stories and myths in their lives and families are fed by stories from the troubles times until 1998. Being peaceful does not really feed the storytelling side of the Irish Culture. The picture was taken during the Halloween Carnival Parade in Derry / Londonderry in November 2008.

WHAT LIVES IN YOU? *Susanne Bosch, 23.1. - 2.2.2009*



Northern Ireland has a strong agricultural economy and heritage, which is still largely based on the persistence of small closely knit communities, and family traditions tying generations to a particular piece of land. The photograph was taken of a neighbouring farmer in among his young cattle. The rhythms of his daily life are completely interconnected, with his relationship to the animals, and the land that sustains them which has been farmed by his family for several generations. The reliance, or support is reciprocal between the human and the animals, there is a cyclical renewal of the relationship.

County Down, November 2008

WHAT SUPPORTS YOUR LIFE? *Sandra Johnston, 2.2. - 12.2.2009*



In the last thirty years women's role and position within Irish society across the island has greatly changed from that of mainly mother and housewife to allow significantly greater economic and social opportunities and mobility. However there is increased prejudice and inflexibility in most professional environments, where little resources mean that often working mothers are not treated equally and fairly. This is an image of my daughter Alyda which I took in our back yard last summer. The image is a statement of personal affection making public my role as a mother and in part a critical response to the often-intolerant attitudes and environments in our society at large.

WHAT FILLS YOU WITH LOVE? *Cherie Driver, 13.2. - 23.2.2009*

The name AGENCY represents the possibility to work (both) temporarily (and) collectively with a changing group of creative people. It offers to experience for a period of time the synthesis of art and life, an intensive exchange, to take the risk to overcome (certain perceived) limits of individual artistic activity, to give the interest in the others and the situation a powerful expression. AGENCY was a guest for a week in March 2008 at the pilotproject Gropiusstadt (www.pilotprojekt-gropiusstadt.de). Being there, we could not avoid to question our everyday living situations in Northern Ireland (and the emotions they entail). This billboard project is a reflection of our visit and debate. AGENCY exists since 2006 and has neither a manifesto nor is a fixed group of creative practitioners. Sandra Johnston, Cherie Driver, Susanne Bosch.